MUSI 317: THEORY FOR NON-MAJORS I

FALL 2015, MWF 9:00-9:50, APB #1402

INSTRUCTOR: NATALIE LIN
NATALIELIN@RICE.EDU
OFFICE: #1130 (BY APPOINTMENT)

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed as an introduction to the theory and analysis of music. We will study how the various components of music – pitch, rhythm, harmony, texture, etc. – provide the basic tools from which musical syntax and meaning are formed. We will primarily be building our fluency in theory of the western tonal system, i.e. music of the "common practice". However, our discussions will also overflow to musical systems outside of this framework. The goals for this class are: 1) to gain exposure to a wide range of musical repertoire and styles, 2) to become equipped with the fundamental tools of analysis, and 3) to enlarge our capacity to listen well.

While it is not a prerequisite, students who take this class are strongly recommended to have some prior experience in music and be able to read music. The first few weeks will be dedicated to reviewing fundamental musical concepts; please make sure you are fluent and comfortable with this material.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*. 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011, with accompanying *Workbook*.
Blank Manuscript Paper
YouTube Playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC0vZaiykUoUsRRo1FUnqCtpgXcmRvxLx
Owlspace Class Page

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

While this is a lecture-formatted course, your active participation in class discussion is important and encouraged. Therefore, you are expected to attend every class. **Three or more unexcused absences may negatively impact your final grade**. In the event of an unavoidable conflict, please notify me in advance.

GRADING

Homework Assignments: 30%
Concert Reports: 10%
Quizzes: 20% (10% each)
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Project: 20%
Extra Credit: up to 7%. Opportunities explained as semester goes forward.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (30%)

Homework will be assigned regularly, and will primarily consist of chapters from the Workbook. You are responsible for completing the corresponding textbook chapter readings. Any other assignment prompts, such as extra readings, response essays, listenings, or composition exercises will be explained in class and/or uploaded to Owlspace.

CONCERT REPORTS (10%)

You will be required to attend **two classical concerts** during the semester and give written concert reports for each. This will be an opportunity to observe and comment on musical features we discuss in class in a live performance setting, as well as challenge the way you listen.

QUIZZES (20%), MIDTERM EXAM (20%)

Two in-class quizzes and one take-home midterm exam will be given. Unless prior arrangements are made with me, there will be no makeup quizzes or exams.

FINAL PROJECT (20%)

Your final project will be assigned following the midterm exam. For this project, you will write your own musical composition, using the tools that we have discussed in class. All compositions will be performed in the final week of class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: MWF Aug 24-28	WHAT IS MUSIC THEORY? FUNDAMENTALS & PITCH	Chapter 1
Week 2: MWF Aug 31-Sept 4	FUNDAMENTALS CONT., RHYTHM & METER	Chapter 2
Week 3: WF Sept 9-11	RHYTHM & METER (CONT.)	Chapter 4
M Sept 7 Labor Day, No Class		
Week 4: MWF Sept 14-18	PITCH COLLECTIONS & SCALES	Chapter 3
Week 5: MWF Sept 21-25	SCALES & MODES, INTERVALS SEPT 23 QUIZ #1	Chapter 5, 6
Week 6: MWF Sept 28-Oct 2	TRIADS, ROMAN NUMERALS	Chapter 7
Week 7: MWF Oct 5-9	SEVENTH CHORDS, SATB, VOICE-LEADING OCT 9 CONCERT REPORT #1 DUE	Chapter 8
Week 8: WF Oct 14-16	HARMONIC FUNCTION	Chapter 12
M Oct 12 Fall Break, No Class		
	OCT 16 MIDTERM HANDED OUT	
Weeks 9-12: Oct 19-Nov 13	NONHARMONIC TONES, HARMONIC FUNCTION, PHRASE, MOTIVE, FORM, MODULATION NOV 13 QUIZ #2	Handouts, Chapter 12, 13, 18, 20, 21,
Week 13-14: Nov 16-25	TOOLS OF COMPOSITION, FINAL PROJECT MEETINGS	
F Nov 27: Thanksgiving Break, No Class		
Week 15: MWF Nov 30-Dec 4	COMPOSITION & PRESENTATIONS NOV 30 FINAL PROJECT DUE DEC 11 CONCERT REPORT #2 DUE	

Rice Honor Code

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

Disability Support Services

If you have a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.